

The Eighty-third Annual Report

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

MASSACHUSETTS

For the Year 1935

Darwin Press
1936

Officers of the Free Public Library

FOR THE YEAR 1936

Trustees

Ex-officio	Terms expire January, 1937
CHARLES S. ASHLEY	Mayor of the City
OSCAR D. KELLEHER.....	President of the Board of Aldermen
MATTHEW A. GLYNN.....	President of the Common Council

Elected by the City Council

FRANK A. MILLIKEN,	Term expires April, 1936
ALICE P. SHOCKLEY,	Term expires April, 1936
HANNAH B. ASHLEY,	Term expires April, 1937
CHARLES M. HOLMES,	Term expires April, 1937
COOPER GAW,	Term expires April, 1938
W. A. ROBINSON, JR.	Term expires April, 1938

Committees

On Library—

MESSRS. MILLIKEN, GAW, and MRS. SHOCKLEY

On Buildings—

MISS ASHLEY, MESSRS. HOLMES, and ROBINSON

On Finance—

MISS ASHLEY, MESSRS. HOLMES, and ROBINSON

On Branches—

MRS. SHOCKLEY, MESSRS. GAW, and ROBINSON

Librarian

GEORGE H. TRIPP

Assistant Librarian

CLEMENT L. YAEGER

Cataloguer

EDITH H. COBB

Librarian's Secretary

MINERVA F. MAXFIELD

Heads of Departments

ALICE H. TRIPP	Reference Librarian
JANE E. GARDNER.....	Art Librarian
ETHEL WILCOX.....	Children's Librarian
GRACE D. SHERMAN.....	Circulation
L. Gertrude Wilcox.....	Genealogical Librarian

Desk Attendants and Assistants

EDITH H. BRODHEAD	Delivery Desk
ELSIE COLLINS	Ingraham Hall
FLORENCE E. FARWELL.....	Catalogue and Ingraham Hall
HELEN S. KENNEDY....	Accession Room and Children's Room
LENA D. PAULL.....	Accession and Delivery Desk
STELLA M. FERGUSON.....	Accession and Art Room
MARIA E. MAXFIELD.....	Catalogue and Art Room
ANNA CABRAL.....	Accession and Hospital
JANE T. THURSTON.....	Children's Room
MARION H. BONNER.....	Reference Room
LUCY M. LAGASSE.....	Children's Room
ABBIE F. REED.....	Newspaper and Magazine Room

Branches

North.....	AMANDA DION, MARJORIE COBB
South.....	CLAIRE RILEY, CATHERINE A. CHASE, ELSIE VEEDER
West	CLOTILDA KOBZA
West, Reading Room	FLORENCE P. PERRY

Pages

LOUISE E. KRUGER	WALTER LAWLESS
KATHLEEN U. LAWLESS	JOHN REED
SYLVIA CIABURRI	ELWYN GARDNER

Elevator

FRED SENFT

Janitors

GEORGE SUNDERLAND	GARRISON L. OLIVER
GEORGE BRIGHTMAN	MARY WATSON

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of New Bedford, Mass.

The trustees present their eighty-third annual report to the City Council in the Report of the Librarian, which has been adopted by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

GEORGE H. TRIPP,

Clerk of the Board.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

To the Trustees of the Free Public Library:

In writing the Eighty-third Annual Report of the Library I wish to quote from an article by Harold J. Laski, Professor of Political Science in the University of London, England, contained in the "Library Journal" for December 1, 1935. "In the cultural history of our people, the development of the public library occupies a place comparable in importance with the development of our schools. Each has opened to the masses a cultural heritage formerly in large part unknown. Each has had an influence comparable to the achievement of the medieval university. They have contributed, as no other facts, to enlightenment, to rationalism, to the sense of unity which comes to a people aware of the significance of the traditions they have to maintain and to enrich." . . .

THE PURPOSE OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY

"I believe that the purpose of a public library is to make accessible the heritage of culture, in the widest sense of the word, to any who may wish to take advantage of it. The first implication, therefore, of my view is the need to view that heritage as something independent of any special attitude of mind. We are not entitled to narrow its substance because we are socialists or conservatives, Christians or

freethinkers, exponents of one philosophy rather than another." . . .

"Adequate publicity would do much to increase the public we serve. But with what are we to serve them? Roughly, I think readers are divided into four groups: (1) there are those who read as a way of occupying their leisure; (2) there are those who read for self-development; (3) there are those who read to acquire some specific information needed occasionally or for a limited and immediate purpose; (4) there are those who use the public library much as the scholar uses the British Museum. We need adequately to serve each of these groups."

LEISURE GROUP

"There are those who decry the energy spent by librarians on the first group in my list. So many of them have the same average outlook as the audience for whom Hollywood caters. They take books as drugs; they use them as a way to escape from the penalties of a monotonous existence. They do not really care for the public library; as their patronage of the new "twopenny" libraries shows. Energy spent on them is widely held to be energy lost. I fear that I do not share this view. In any case, readers in this group are also God's creatures; they are entitled to all the help and consideration we can offer. The way to educate the public taste from its not wholly attractive standards is not by neglect, but by sympathy."

THE CONTENTS OF THE NEW BEDFORD LIBRARY

Our library contains 200,000 books; we subscribe, or receive by gift, 388 magazines and 40 newspapers. The importance of periodical literature is the fact that especially in scientific matters, and questions of current interest, the latest and most authoritative news is obtained from the reputable magazines.

Professor J. B. S. Haldane declared himself not proud of popular books on science, and made the statement that he would be surprised if the librarian to whom he was talking had in his library the only real good book he had written, "Enzymes." He stated, "If you haven't got it, don't buy it now, because it is completely out-of-date." The book was published in 1930.

The library also contains about 73,000 pictures, a great majority of which are available for circulation. The circulation of such pictures through the Art Room and the Juvenile Room is about 38,000.

The aim of a free public library is well expressed in the sentiment, "Something of everything, and everything of something." The "something of everything," means that all controversial subjects should have both sides represented among our books, and all of the subjects which are classified in the library by the conventional numbers arranged from "0" to "999" and which cover practically the whole range of possible subjects, should be adequately represented in a large library, while special subjects—as in our own case, textiles, whaling industry, and biography—should have an extremely large proportion of typical books in these subjects.

The Library of Congress has recently engaged in a method of largely increasing the use of books for the blind by inaugurating a service by which talking books for the blind and the machines for doing the talking will be available for the use of public libraries. These are to be loaned by the Library of Congress.

One of the most useful rooms in the library is the Information Department and Reference Room where questions are presented and usually answered, these questions embracing a great variety of subjects.

A quotation from the Report of the Haverhill Public Library for 1934 follows. "People come to books to help them solve a hundred kinds of problems. For things of the spirit, too—to ease their weary heads—to help them cling to a clear, wholesome viewpoint—to give them, through the relaxation of literature or well-made story, a period of pleasant mental exercise, which will help them tackle their problems, rested and vigorous again."

Questions on genealogical matters, many of which come from all parts of the country, are turned over to the Genealogical Department, and usually answers can be obtained from our large collection of such books.

READING ROOM

In Ingraham Hall there is a large collection of books arranged on the shelves in different classifications. Books can be read in the room, and also can be taken out by having them charged at the desk. It is interesting, and rather encouraging, sometimes, to see what books have been taken out. In examining the charging slips in the back of the books, sometimes a book which one would hardly think would interest anybody has been taken out a number of times, showing a wide range of interest.

As has been stated before, the library building centrally located as it is, has become a civic center. As a proof of this there were 757 meetings, an average of more than two a day held in this building. These meetings cover a wide variety of interest, committee meetings, educational and literary meetings, etc.

While in Massachusetts for a number of years every town and village has been provided with library facilities, it is startling to realize that there are 45,000,000 people in the United States, or 37% of the population without library

service. In fact, 74% of the rural districts are without access to libraries, and 25% of counties are absolutely without such provision. There are two states which spend only two cents per capita for libraries. These items are quoted from an article in "Rural America." In order to meet this demand for wider library facilities, enthusiastic persons have urged that the United States Government be called upon to supply \$100,000,000 a year for spreading the advantages of public libraries over the benighted sections which do not have opportunities that libraries afford, but there has been strong objection to calling on the Government, as if money could be had from government sources without question, "shaking the plum tree," realizing that every dollar spent by the Government comes directly, or indirectly, from taxation. It has been felt by a large number of librarians that it is unfair to add to the burden of government by asking for this extra amount, and there is the danger of calling on the government to interfere with local administration of the libraries, which would follow large expenditures of funds.

The pamphlet material that the library owns is very extensive and is all catalogued. The Reference Room is continually adding to this pamphlet material, covering a great variety of subjects, for example, travel pamphlets, scientific advertising matter, such as air conditioning, etc., careers, aviation, the numerous pamphlets of the Agricultural Department, cooking, etc.

In the Reference Room there are extensive catalogues giving a key to important articles appearing in English and American periodicals for over 100 years. This service is brought up-to-date.

The hospital service at St. Luke's is worthy of mention. During the year 7707 books were circulated among the patients who look eagerly forward for the semi-weekly visit of the library attendant.

The collection of pictures, books, and periodicals in the Art Room is very large. Few libraries of the size of ours have such valuable collections as are contained in this room.

Two of the government agencies have sent young women who have given valuable assistance in repairing books and arranging manuscripts, carrying out the work that was begun last year.

By the removal of the police service from the West Branch Building, opportunity was given for changes and repairs on the lower floor, so during the past few months a room has been opened for a Reading Room for that section of the city. The books are to be read and circulated from the Branch Library on the second floor, but the Reading Room on the lower floor does not circulate magazines, but is open for reading periodicals and newspapers.

These new accommodations have been greatly appreciated by the public, and bid fair to be a welcome feature adding to the resources of the present well-managed branch.

The work at the North Branch, despite the unfortunate location which is a long distance from the business center of the North End, is carried on successfully.

The South Branch is the only branch which has a modern building adapted to library purposes, and the opportunity for good work is duly appreciated. The attendants in charge are zealous, enthusiastic, and able in carrying on the duties which devolve upon them. One of the features is the use of Story Hours which have been given periodically; during the time from January through May these Story Hours are given three times a week, and from September through December, twice a week, making in all 100 different Story Hours through the year. The usual attendance is

from twenty-five to forty. The young people in that Branch are very enthusiastic over these Story Hours, and it is certainly work which is helpful in stimulating their interest in the children's books. Their enthusiasm is reflected in the intense delight that they take in Book Weeks and the Christmas entertainments which are carefully prepared.

The Library Book Talks which begin in January and are continued for three months were carried on as usual during 1935, thirteen of these talks being given by volunteer speakers who have generously responded to our invitation.

The main desk during the summer season has been lavishly supplied by flowers from the gardens of three employees of the library, Minnie St. John, Mary Almeida, and Fred Senft, and this service is very greatly appreciated.

It has been noted in Ingraham Hall that compared with the circulation of fiction—although, of course, the fiction circulation is much larger,—there is an increase in the more serious books, the so-called non-fiction.

The Juvenile Department has carried on as usual, with success in meeting the wants of the younger readers. The young women in charge of that room are to be commended for their untiring zeal and enterprise. Their Book Week and Christmas entertainments give a great deal of delight to the young children, and provoke commendation from those of older years who take pleasure in the exhibition.

In accordance with our usual custom we have met requests for books for the C. C. C. Camps, having also supplied a Y. M. C. A. Camp and Lakecroft Camp in New Hampshire with books.

Fewer books than usual have been purchased which largely accounts for somewhat smaller circulation. This is

common over the country at large, one of the Metropolitan districts showing a decrease of a million. This falling off is due to a variety of causes, largely because funds are not sufficient to meet the ever increasing demand for books.

The janitor service has functioned well.

I would speak in special commendation of the work of the library staff who have fully cooperated in making the year a successful one.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE H. TRIPP,

Librarian.

ANNUAL REPORT

1935

STATISTICS

Population of New Bedford, January 1, 1935, Assessors Estimate	110,022	
Book Circulation	577,545	
Main Library	236,022	
Branch Libraries	176,279	
School Collection	135,394	
High School Library	5,210	
Junior High Schools	17,105	
St. Luke's Hospital	7,307	
Inter-Library loans	228	
Pictures loaned Art Room 31,719; Juvenile Room 7,682	39,401	
Book Collection, December 31, 1934, actual count	195,941	
Book Collection, Net additions 1935, Adult 1,441; Juvenile, Net loss 95	1,346	197,287
Volumes bound and rebound	982	
Periodicals in Reading Room	323	
Newspapers in Reading Room	39	
Borrowers, active (5 years registration)	33,374	

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation	\$54,450.00
Salaries	\$38,402.70
Wages	12,646.68
Supplies	197.88
Janitor's Supplies	235.35
Repairs	334.20
Furniture	255.20
Lighting Branches	359.97
Heating Branches	289.60
Telephones	205.52
Express and Carting	94.23
Building miscellany	541.03
Library miscellany	27.63
Postage	92.24
Periodicals	4.00
Insurance	688.20
Printing	31.70

	\$54,406.13
Balance	43.87

	\$54,450.00

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

KEMPTON FUND

Balance	\$ 1.34
Receipts and Credits	8,324.09
	—————
Books	\$4,687.09
Periodicals	896.85
Binding Books	1,398.71
Binding Periodicals	75.20
Printing	342.80
Supplies	458.95
Library miscellany	220.50
Postage	131.58
Express and Carting	90.04
Janitor's Supplies	22.50
	—————
	\$8,324.22
Balance	1.21
	—————
	\$8,325.43

SYLVIA ANN HOWLAND FUND

Balance	\$.53
Receipts and Credits	2,268.15
	—————
Books	\$756.50
Periodicals	670.74
Binding Books	449.03
Binding Periodicals	26.50
Printing	183.50
Supplies	116.52
Library miscellany	27.45
Express and Carting	21.75
Stationery	8.97
	—————
	\$2,260.96
Balance	7.72
	—————
	\$2,268.68

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

17 p

GEORGE O. CROCKER FUND

Balance	\$.03
Receipts and Credits	567.70
	—————
Books	\$136.50
Periodicals	42.00
Supplies	17.78
Janitor's Supplies	23.80
Lighting Branches	105.03
Repairs	10.00
Heating Branches	27.40
Library miscellany	9.00
Building miscellany	35.35
Express and Carting	46.35
Furniture	28.27
Telephone	40.60
Postage	30.00
	—————
	\$552.08
Balance	15.65
	—————
	\$567.73

JAMES B. CONGDON FUND

Balance	\$.57
Receipts and Credits	15.00
	—————
Books	\$2.00
Periodicals	2.50
Supplies	3.30
	—————
	\$7.80
Balance	7.77
	—————
	\$15.57

CHARLES W. MORGAN FUND

Balance	\$16.15
Receipts and Credits	30.00
	—————
Books	\$ 5.64
Supplies	34.48
Binding Periodicals	4.00
	—————
	\$44.12
Balance	2.03
	—————
	\$46.15

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHARLES L. WOOD FUND

Balance	\$.76
Receipts and Credits	60.00
	—————
Books	\$26.75
Library miscellany	15.00
Supplies	10.91
	—————
	\$52.66
Balance	8.10
	—————
	\$60.76

GEORGE HOWLAND, JR. FUND

Balance	\$30.32
Receipts and Credits	48.00
	—————
Books	\$38.59
Binding Periodicals	10.50
	—————
	\$49.09
Balance	29.23
	—————
	\$78.32

OLIVER CROCKER FUND

Balance	\$ 1.70
Receipts and Credits	30.00
	—————
Supplies	21.00
Janitor's Supplies	5.03
Repairs	1.00
	—————
	\$27.03
Balance	4.67
	—————
	\$31.70

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

January 1, 1935 — December 31, 1935

Salaries	\$38,402.70
Wages	12,646.68
Books	5,653.07
Periodicals	1,616.09
Binding Books	1,847.74
Binding Periodicals	116.20
Supplies	860.82
Stationery	8.97
Janitor's Supplies	286.68
Repairs	345.20
Lighting Branches	465.00
Heating Branches	317.00
Postage	253.82
Telephones	246.12
Express and Carting	252.37
Printing	558.00
Furniture	283.47
Insurance	688.20
Library miscellany	299.58
Building miscellany	576.38
	<hr/>
	\$65,724.09

ANNUAL REPORT

Free Public Library

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN,

January 23, 1936.

Received, placed on file, and sent down for concurrence.

RODOLPHUS A. SWAN,

City Clerk.

IN COMMON COUNCIL,

January 23, 1936.

Concurred.

RUTH G. HILTON,

Clerk.

Attest:

RODOLPHUS A. SWAN,

City Clerk.